

House Resolution 1289

By: Representative Abdul-Salaam of the 74th

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing and commending Mr. Chris Draft and inviting him to appear before the House
2 of Representatives; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, Mr. Chris Draft was born February 26, 1976, in Salinas, Kansas; and

4 WHEREAS, St. Louis Rams linebacker and former Atlanta Falcon, Chris Draft, has been
5 selected as a JB Award recipient, an annual honor bestowed upon 12 active NFL players in
6 recognition of their off-field contributions in building better communities and stronger
7 families; and

8 WHEREAS, as a winner of a JB Award, Mr. Draft is automatically a finalist for the Byron
9 "Whizzer" White Award, an award named in honor of former NFL player and Supreme Court
10 Justice Byron White; and

11 WHEREAS, to many young people in Clayton County, this vigorous footballer brings that
12 same drive and determination to his community's activities and has proven himself to be a
13 genuine hero; and

14 WHEREAS, he first came to Clayton County in 2004, following the death of Travon Wilson,
15 a four year-old boy gunned down in a public park by 18 gang members, and asked how he
16 could help; and

17 WHEREAS, at that time there was a vital need for recreation and youth centers in Clayton
18 County; and

19 WHEREAS, Mr. Draft and "Big George", an Atlanta Falcons Coach, came and addressed
20 the Clayton County Board of Commissioners about the need for quality recreational
21 programs for the youth, and they also pledged to come back and bring programs for the
22 children if recreation centers were built; and

1 WHEREAS, Mr. Draft believes that the answer to fighting violence and fighting negativity
2 is saying "We don't accept that. We won't accept it."; and

3 WHEREAS, Mr. Draft has been involved with countless other community initiatives ranging
4 from character education to health, nutrition, and fitness, and he has worked with the Clayton
5 Village Anti-Violence Task Force, Raising Up Leaders, the NFL/YET Center, Awesome,
6 Inc., and other youth programs in the community; and

7 WHEREAS, since the meeting with the county commissioners, he has more than made good
8 on his promise, as evidenced during the summer of 2007 when he and the Chris Draft Family
9 Foundation sponsored over 60 youth for the NFL/YET Center in downtown Atlanta,
10 providing transportation and registration fees for the attendees; and

11 WHEREAS, Mr. Draft brought 12 NFL players to the Virginia Gray Recreation Center in
12 Clayton County to participate in the annual Peace & Unity Block Party, sponsored by
13 Representative Roberta Abdul-Salaam, the Clayton Village, and the Riverdale Technical
14 College Foundation, and he and the NFL players worked with over 2,000 participants with
15 character building exercises, fitness training, and football drills; and

16 WHEREAS, after viewing a screening of the movie *The Great Debaters*, he got the idea to
17 show the movie around the country, inviting high school students to view the movie, discuss
18 their thoughts and perceptions about the movie with local leaders who were invited to
19 participate, and write an essay to be entered in a essay competition; and

20 WHEREAS, it is only fitting and proper that we recognize the outstanding contributions Mr.
21 Draft has made to young people, Georgia communities, and the state.

22 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
23 the members of this body recognize Mr. Chris Draft, commend him for his numerous
24 outstanding contributions to young people, Georgia communities, and this state, and invite
25 him to appear before this body on a date and at a time designated by the Speaker of the
26 House for the purposes of being recognized by the House and receiving an appropriate copy
27 of this resolution.